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PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM

How Highway Development in the Middle East Can Aid in the Permanent Resettlement of Arab Refugees

This paper was prepared by the Public Roads Administration of the Federal Works Agency of the United States Government. The report states that a modernization of the road program within the capacities of the Near Eastern Countries could raise the number of permanently employed from the present level of 20,000 to a new level of about 25,500 over a period of about eight years, and that 2,400 additional workers would be the normal increment from indigenous sources over this period leaving some 3,100 new jobs for refugees either directly or indirectly out of the 5500 added road jobs.

The report further states that an acceleration of this program through the use of possible resettlement or other outside funds including Point IV could accomplish the eight-year program in about three years and at the same time provide a large work relief program for refugees. The tentative figures for additional work relief jobs are indicated at 18,000 for the first year, 27,000 for the second year and 36,000 for the third year.

Work on roads program at this level of employment should provide jobs for over one-fourth of the employable refugees and would represent a real contribution toward the working out of the basic problem.

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